



Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection

Rich Miller
State Fire Marshal

Bureau of Fire Services
3101 Technology Blvd. Suite H
Lansing, MI 48910

(517) 241-8847
www.michigan.gov/bfs

MISSION

To provide for the protection of persons and property from exposure to the dangers of fire through inspection and fire prevention and to serve the training needs of over 30,000 fire fighters in the state of Michigan.

Members of the Michigan Fire Service Community:

TECHNOLOGY! TECHNOLOGY! TECHNOLOGY! How often do we hear these words? It is moving so fastget the latest...fastest laptop, tablet, phone, etc. Here too in the fire service, technology is rapidly advancing to help you in your work toward increasing life safety and property conservation.

From the invention of the battery smoke alarm to the electric (battery back-up) smoke alarm, the ionization and photoelectric smoke alarm, to the combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm and the new SMART alarm. These SMART alarms alert occupants to what the problem is, where it is, and the alarm will send messages to your cellular phone.

Keeping up with and understanding the latest in fire service technology is a major challenge. All of you have done a tremendous job in effectively using advanced technology as your duties and responsibilities increase. Keep up the good work!

As we all know the second week of October is dedicated to Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme is "Smoke Alarms Saves Lives: Test yours every month!"

Regards,

Richard W. Miller
State Fire Marshal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bureau Update	Page
Staff Updates	3
Plan Review Division	
New – Online Payments for Plan Review Fees	4
Completing your Application for Fire Safety Plan Examination form BFS-979	4
12-A Documentation & Inspection Request Process Improvements	5
Fire Fighter Training Division	
Fire Fighter Training Council Grants Awards	6
Upcoming Fire Fighter Courses	7
Contacting your County Training Coordinator (CTC)	7
CTC Coordinator News & Information	7
Fire Fighter Training Division awarded FEMA Grant	7
IMS Updates	7
IMS Questions - Password Resets – Instructor & Grant Payments	8
Fireworks	
Fireworks Hotline – Payments for Delegated Departments	9
Fireworks Program Statistics	10-11
Storage Tank Division	12
NFIRS	
NFIRS Password Reset Update	13
Updating NFIRS	13
NFIRSGRAM – October 2, 2014	13
Michigan Fire Service Directory	13
Other News	
NFPA	14
International Code Council (ICC)	15
National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)	15-16
Youth Firesetting Prevention	16-19
Sky Lanterns	19
School Safety	20-21
Seasonal Fire Safety Reminders	22-23
Submission of Fire Articles	24

STAFF UPDATES

Farewell to BFS Employees



Joe Grutza, Fire Fighter Training Division

Joe served as the manager of the Fire Fighter Training Division (FFTD) for the past 10 years. He coordinated the activities between the Fire Fighter Training Council (FFTC) and Bureau of Fire Services during his tenure. Joe's last day was September 12, 2014. We appreciate his dedication to the Bureau of Fire Services and wish Joe well on his retirement.



Elaine Falcsik, Plan Review Division

Elaine served as the secretary for the Plan Review Division for the past 12 years. Her hard work and dedication will be missed, along with her willingness to go the extra mile, making sure projects were sent out as quickly as possible. Enjoy your retirement to the fullest, you deserve it!

Welcome New BFS Employees



Laurie Nevin, Lansing Regional Secretary

Laurie works as secretary for the Lansing Regional Office. Prior to joining the Bureau, she worked for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House and U.S. House of Representatives.



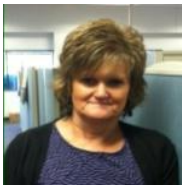
Alicia Morrison, Detroit Regional Secretary

Alicia joins the Bureau as secretary for Detroit Regional Office. Prior to joining the Bureau she worked for 22 years at McLaren Greater Lansing.



Cathy Carson, General Office Assistant to Administration

Cathy joined to the Bureau in September 2014 and serves as general office assistant to Administration. Prior to joining the Bureau she worked for Thomas M. Cooley Law School.



Nancy Schafer, Gaylord Regional Secretary/Plan Review Secretary

Nancy serves as the Plan Review secretary/Gaylord Regional secretary. Prior to joining the Bureau she worked in the Michigan Department of Treasury.

PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

NEW - Online Payments for Plan Review Fees

In order to speed the Plan Review process along the Bureau of Fire Services has implemented a new online payment system. This secure online payment system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to pay plan review fees. The system allows the use of a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or debit cards containing a Visa/MasterCard or Discover logo.

Please follow see the link [Plan Review Online Payments](#), which will direct you to the steps necessary to complete a credit card transaction. Questions can be directed to Aaron Bemister at 517-241-2473.

Completing your Application for Fire Safety Plan Examination form BFS-979

In order to expedite the Plan Review process it is very important to fill out BFS-979 application. To complete your application, please visit: [BFS-979 Application](#). The Bureau has noticed that applications submitted by architects, engineers and certified firms are incomplete.

Please Note: Be sure to complete the following areas of the application with more detail to assist the Plan Review staff in processing the applications quickly.

- **Project Description:** The more details that are provided in the description the easier it is for the plan reviewers to get a quick grasp of the scope of work.
- **Not Related to a current FS Project or Related to existing FS Project:** There are two options for certified firms to fill in for their submittals. One of these boxes has to be checked when submitting fire alarm, sprinkler or hood suppression shop drawings. When the shop drawings are related to an existing FS project, the certified firm needs to contact the architect or engineer to obtain the project number.
- **License No. / Act 144 Cert. No. –** This box is intended for Act 144 certified firms to put their Act 144 certificate number in and architects/engineers to put their license number. Some Act 144 Certified Firms are also licensed under different requirements. Certified firms sometimes only put their license number which is incorrect. The Act 144 certificate number is required. The certificate number is a 4-digit number preceded by an A (alarm) or S (sprinkler) such as A-1234 or S-4567. If the certified firm does not know their Act 144 certificate number contact the Plan Review Division at 517-241-8847.

Following the helpful tips above while completing the application will assist the Bureau in processing your project review timely.

New Online Process for 12-A Documentation and Inspection Request Process Improvements

In an effort to provide the most efficient service to our customers, the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) is pleased to offer a new online process for the submittal of 12-A Documentation and Inspection Requests.

12-A Documentation Submittal:

Because final project approvals are often held up due to outstanding 12-A documentation and fees, BFS requests that all 12-A documentation and fees be submitted *prior* to requesting a final inspection. Please note: the 12-A documentation *must* be signed by both the qualified and responsible persons of the Act 144 Certified Firm as required by [statute](#). To submit your 12-A documentation and pay the associated fee online follow the steps below.

Step 1: Pay the \$40.00 12-A documentation fee online.

Click on the following link. <https://www.thepayplace.com/mi/deleg/planreview>
Be sure to have your BFS Project Number ready and follow the instructions.

Step 2: Save the payment confirmation.

Once your payment has been submitted, save a copy of your payment confirmation. You will submit a copy of the confirmation along with your signed 12-A Documentation via email.

Step 3: Submit your documents.

Email your 12-A Documentation and payment confirmation to the following email address. In the subject line, please specify your BFS Project Number and county in which the facility is located in.
BFSInspectionRequest@michigan.gov.

Inspection Request Submittal:

Requests for inspection shall be made by the Architect of Record and/or Certified Firm and will not be scheduled prior to payment of all outstanding fees

Step 4: Request your inspection.

Email your inspection request to BFSInspectionRequest@michigan.gov. Please specify the type of inspection you are requesting (50% or final) and the contact information of the individual responsible for scheduling the inspection. In the subject line, provide your BFS Project Number and the county in which the facility is located.

You may contact our office with questions regarding your project 517-335-0683.

FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING DIVISION

FIREWORKS SAFETY FEE GRANT AWARDS

Fire Fighter Training Council Grant Awards

At the August 2014, Fire Fighter Training Council (FFTC) meeting, the third round of Firework Grant awards were approved by the FFTC. The FFTC received 13 grant requests and 6 elective grants were awarded. The FFTC voted unanimously to award grants to (fire departments, county training committees, and other fire-related agencies to purchase training equipment and cover training costs).



Fire Industry	Nature of Grant Request	Amount Awarded
Delta Township Fire	Hardware, Software for Blue Card Training	\$17,000.00
Bertrand Twp. Fire	Suburban Fire Tactics Training	\$ 1,500.00
Schoolcraft RTC	Fire Officer III Series for Warren Fire	\$ 2,340.00
Mackinac Isle Fire	OCC Swedish Flashover Training	\$12,000.00
Martin Erskine	Airport Fire Training	\$10,000.00
Ann Arbor Twp.	OCC Swedish Flashover Training	\$ 9,532.31



Upcoming Fire Fighter Courses

For a complete list of all currently scheduled courses go to the Bureau website at www.michigan.gov/bfs. All approved fire fighter courses that are offered in the IMS system are listed there. To access up-to-date course information, go to the Bureau website, link to Fire Fighter Training Division, Curriculum Services, to link to [Schedule of MFFTC Fire Fighter Training Course](#) updated on 09-29-2014.

To verify available space within a class, contact the course manager. You may sign up for classes using the IMS training application.



Contacting your County Training Coordinator (CTC)

You can find information on the BFS website for contacting your CTC coordinator at the following link: [County Training Coordinators - Regions 1 & 2](#). You may access this information under Fire Fighter Training Division, Instructor Resources.

CTC Coordinator News & Information

The Bureau of Fire Services asks all CTC coordinators to complete the [BFS-240](#), County Training Committee Form, once a year or when there is a new chairperson selected. This form can be found under the BFS Forms and Publications, Fire fighter training materials section.

Fire Fighter Training Division Awarded FEMA Grant

The Fire Fighter Training Division (FFTD) was awarded a \$425,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant will be used for technology and software for the division. The new software will help the FFTD enhance their ability to certify and maintain necessary records for all state approved fire fighter training while tracking the individual training records of Michigan's 1,036 Fire Departments and 33,000 fire fighters.

IMS Updates

The Bureau receives many calls pertaining to an individual's inability to access the IMS in it's entirety, or that the IMS system kicks them out. Currently the only browser that works efficiently with the IMS system is **Internet Explorer**; other browsers do not work with IMS (ex: Google Chrome or Apple ISO systems). If you are experiencing problems with IMS, please verify that you are using Internet Explorer. You may download Internet Explorer from the Internet.

IMS Questions, Password Resets?

Contact the following Bureau staff:

Region 1

Dan Hammerberg

906-786-0760

Region 2

Gary Crum

616-447-2689

Alternate Back Up

Paula Brzesinski

517-241-0695

Instructor and Grant Payments

- In order for instructors, and grant recipients to receive payments, they must register as a vendor with the State of Michigan at www.cpexpress.state.mi.us.
- The [BFS 250A](#) must be completed for all instructors and grant payments within the Fire Fighter Training Division.
- Submit any associated receipts for items shown on this form. (The State of Michigan retains the right to audit any funded course using State of Michigan funds). The "State Funding Total" shown is the maximum amount that the Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council will pay for a class or grant request.
- Any "Miscellaneous Expenses" must be listed in the assigned boxes and will reduce the total amount available in the "Person/Institution Payment" boxes to the left.
- The box labeled "Total of State Funds" must not exceed the "State Funding Total" box. This form is available on the Bureau website at www.michigan.gov/bfs. If you have any questions contact BreeAnn Hooker at 517-241-0686.

FIREWORKS

Fireworks Hotline

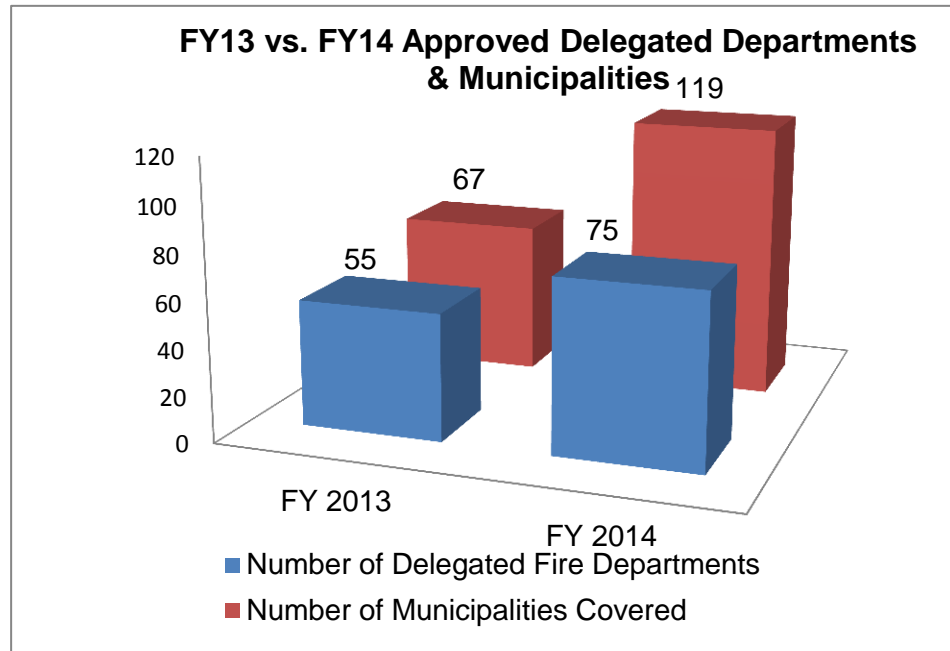
All sales or regulatory complaints can be directed to the fireworks complaint hotline at 1-855-345-6442 or visit www.michigan.gov/bfs for more information.



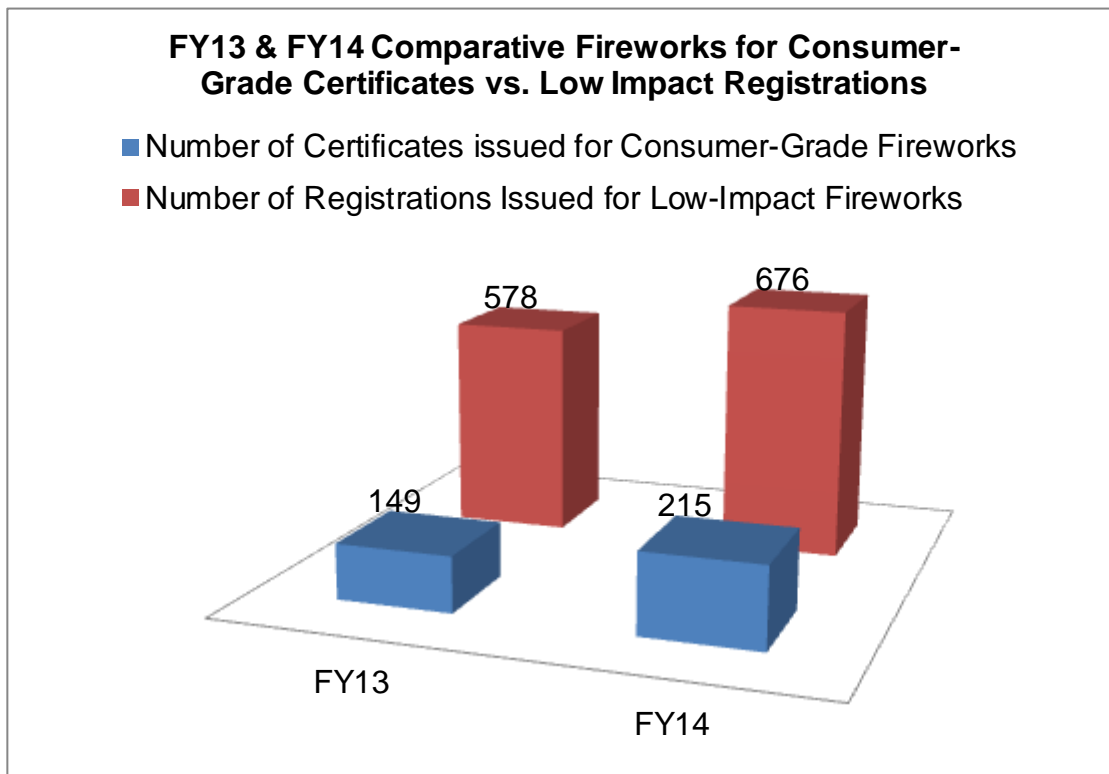
Payments for Delegated Departments Vendor Registration Instructions

In order for delegated departments to receive payments, they must register as a vendor with the State of Michigan. Instructions for vendors who have not previously registered on the vendor file using the online method or if a vendor is already registered in MAIN but did not use the online method to receive a password or vendors who have previously registered on the vendor file using the online method but have not signed up for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), please go to the following website for instructions: www.cpexpress.state.mi.us.

Fireworks Program Statistics

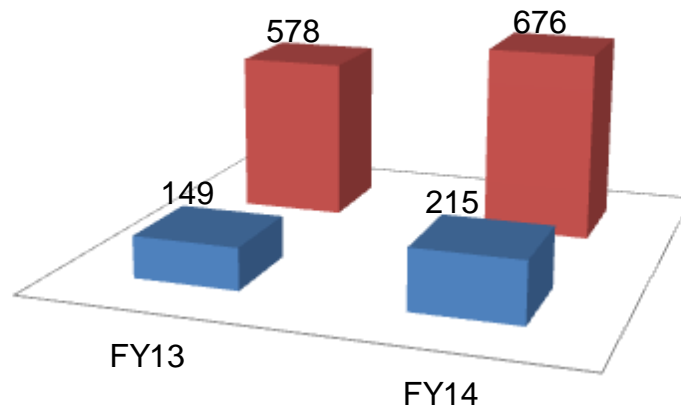


The chart above demonstrates a comparative in the number of approved delegated fire departments the number of municipalities the delegated departments covered FY13 vs. FY14. The chart below demonstrates the number of consumer grade certificates vs. the number of low impact registrations received in FY13 vs. FY14.



Consumer Grade Certificates Issued by Structure Type

- Number of Certificates issued for Permanent Structures
- Number of Certificates Issued for Non-Permanent Structures



The chart above demonstrates a comparative in the number of certificates issued for permanent structure vs. non-permanent structures for FY13 vs. FY14.

STORAGE TANK DIVISION

Osceola and Newaygo County Flooding April 2014

On April 14, 2014, the Muskegon River experienced severe flooding that affected Osceola and Newaygo Counties. Governor Snyder declared a "State of Disaster."

The city of Evart in Osceola County was 16 feet above flood stage, and Newaygo County was 13 feet above flood stage. The flooding was estimated to have affected more than 250 homes along the river. The flooding dislodged approximately 40 residential propane tanks that floated into the river. No fires or environmental damage was reported.

Storage Tank Division (STD) Manager Kevin Wieber and Engineer R. Jeff Tanner provided guidance on the removal of liquefied petroleum gas tanks and cylinders that floated into the Muskegon River as a result of flooding. Since it was highly probable that all of the tanks were empty or only had residual amounts of fuel left in them, local recovery personnel worked closely with the Michigan Propane Gas Association, and the Propane Emergency Response Network, who were already onsite helping with the recovery effort to address the situation.



NFIRS Password Reset Update

NFIRS account passwords now automatically deactivate if you have not logged into the NFIRS system within 45 days of the last login. Users will receive a notification via e-mail message for seven days before the date of expiration, or the account will be locked on the date of expiration.

Please ensure the e-mail address listed on your NFIRS account is accurate. For questions regarding your NFIRS account, please call 517- 241-0691 or via e-mail at NFIRS@michigan.gov.

Updating NFIRS

The State's NFIRS reporting has dropped below 80 percent compliance. Michigan's Fire Prevention Code **mandates** local fire chiefs to report any fire resulting in loss of life or property to the Bureau of Fire Services. Michigan has adopted NFIRS 5.0 as the reporting standard, a computerized reporting system. If a fire department has no activity during a given month, they are required to submit a "No Activity" report.

Fire departments that are not participating in NFIRS 5.0 will not receive federal grant funding or training funding provided through the Federal Emergency Management Administration. In addition to jeopardizing federal dollars, fire department employees will not be eligible for specialized training provided through the Michigan State Police.

Fire reporting plays a major role in reducing injuries, fatalities, and economic losses from fire and related emergencies. Fire codes, public fire education, and legislative actions are all driven by fire loss statistics. Complete and accurate data is essential to effective solutions to many of our fire problems. Should you have any questions on the free FEMA NFIRS web-based program or any incident reporting questions, you may e-mail NFIRS@michigan.gov or call 517-241-0691.

We are grateful for your assistance in this effort. The information that fire departments will provide is critical to our success. Thank you in advance for your assistance and dedication to better our state's fire service.

NFIRSGRAM - October 2, 2014

To view the October 2014 NFIRSGRAM please visit link:

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/infograms/40_14.pdf

Michigan Fire Service Directory - How to Update Your Department's Information

If your information has not been updated in 2014, go to www.michigan.gov/bfs, click on "Frequently Used Forms." Complete the Fire Service Directory information update form [Fire Service Directory Information Update](#) and return it to the Bureau of Fire Services, attention Rhonda Howard via e-mail at howardr2@michigan.gov; fax the form to 517-332-1427; or mail to the Bureau of Fire Services, Attn: Rhonda Howard, PO Box 30700, Lansing, MI 48909. Thank you in advance for your help in keeping the directory updated and accurate.

OTHER NEWS



National Fire Protection Association

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

Fire Safety Challenges in Tall Wood Buildings - October 29, 2014, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

This Fire Safety Challenges in Tall Wood Buildings Webinar will cover a Foundation Phase 1 project with the objective to gather relevant research on tall timber buildings and identify the knowledge gaps in the available information. For registration information please refer to NFPA website at: [Fire Safety Challenges in Tall Wood Buildings](#)

The Smart Fire Fighter of the Future - December 4, 2014

"The Smart Fire Fighter of the Future Webinar" provides a summary of a project to develop a research roadmap for smart firefighting, which establishes the scientific and technical basis for achieving the vision for Smart Fire Fighting in the United States. For registration information you may refer to NFPA website at: www.nfpa.org

Fire chiefs endorse position papers on fire as a weapon, fire behavior, fire-based community healthcare

September 8, 2014 – Fire chiefs from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom participated in the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) Urban Fire Forum (UFF) in Quincy, Mass. September 4-7, 2014. United States Fire Administrator Chief Ernest Mitchell, IAFC CEO and Executive Director Mark Light, United Kingdom Chief Fire & Rescue Advisor Peter Holland and Chief Fire Officers Association of the United Kingdom incoming President Peter Dartford were also in attendance.

The group endorsed the following three important documents as official UFF-Metro Chief position papers:

- [Fire and Smoke as a Weapon](#)
- [Fire Behavior and Tactical Considerations](#)
- [Fire-Based Community Healthcare Provider Programs](#)

"The fire service today faces greater challenges than ever before and responds to a broader range of emergency and catastrophic events," said NFPA Metro Chiefs Executive Secretary Russ Sanders who coordinates the event. "These position papers are critical resources for departments to use to apply the latest fire research and implement best practices for usual and extraordinary circumstances." You may link to the full article at: [Fire Chiefs Endorse Position Papers on Fire as a Weapon, Fire Behavior, Fire-Based Community Healthcare](#)



People Helping People Build a Safer World™

Complimentary Code Download Program Set to Change for 2015 Editions

The 2015 Codes have launched, and governmental, corporate, honorary and building safety professional members are eligible to receive the download when they renew their memberships. Eligible members will receive an email with a coupon code, along with instructions on where to go to purchase their download after their renewals are processed. The program is for any eligible member renewing between July 15, 2014 and July 15, 2015. Only one coupon code per customer will be awarded. For corporate and governmental members, the coupon code will be emailed to the primary contact. For questions, you may direct them to membership staff at members@iccsafe.org.



Seven Michigan Fire Departments Honored as Life Safety Achievement Award Recipients by NASFM Foundation and Grinnell Mutual

Congratulations to seven Michigan fire departments that were recently honored by the National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research and Education Foundation (NASFM Foundation) and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. They are among 142 fire departments from 33 states that earned the Life Safety Achievement Award for their fire prevention accomplishments in 2013.

They are: Bethany Fire Department, Bethany; Bloomfield Township Fire Department, Bloomfield Township; Elsie Area Fire Department, Elsie; Lyon Township Fire Department, New Hudson; Olivet Fire Department, Olivet; South Lyon Fire Department, South Lyon; and Tittabawassee Township Fire Department, Freeland.

For more than 20 years, this award has nationally recognized fire departments for actively promoting fire prevention in the pursuit of saving lives. To qualify for the award, fire departments recorded zero fire deaths in residential structures or a 10 percent reduction of fire deaths from the prior year. In addition, award recipients documented active and effective fire prevention programs as well as a commitment to reducing the number of house fires in the community.

More than 1.3 million fires were reported in the United States in 2012, the most recent year for which statistics are available from the National Fire Protection Association. These fires caused 2,855 civilian deaths, 16,500 civilian injuries, and more than \$12 billion in property damage.

To reduce those statistics, this year's award recipients organized educational programs targeted to specific age and at-risk groups, conducted fire safety inspections, checked and installed free smoke detectors, provided fire extinguisher training, offered multi-lingual fire prevention resources, and promoted fire safety messages at a variety of community events. Many educational programs, including school visits, fire station tours, and summer camps, were designed to teach kids basic evacuation skills, how to call 9-1-1, and about firefighter equipment and gear.

In addition, firefighters conducted life-saving programs, including first-aid and CPR courses, fire safety classes for young babysitters, and drunk driving demonstrations as well as promoted disaster preparedness and the installation of carbon monoxide detectors.

For a complete list of award-winning departments nationwide, please visit:

<http://www.grinnellmutual.com/about-us/media-center/143-U-S-fire-departments-honored-as-Life-Safety-Achievement-Award-recipients-by-NASFM-Foundation-and-Grinnell-Mutual>

Youth Firesetting Prevention

by Lt. Michael McLeieer - Olivet Fire Department
National Fire Academy Adjunct Instructor

Secure fire tools such as lighters and matches and teach fire safety early and often!

Each year in this country, fires set by children are responsible for more than 100 fire deaths, nearly 1,000 painful burn injuries, and hundreds of millions of dollars in property loss, according to the United States Fire Administration. Between 2007-2011, an average of 49,300 fires involved children misusing fire occurred throughout the United States. Children are often the victims in these fires. The most recent example occurred on September 22, 2014 when an 8 year-old-boy died in a shed fire in Hyannis, Massachusetts. This tragedy started as the result of a dare when a friend of the deceased boy lit a piece of paper on fire and then tried to extinguish the fire with a pail of what was believed to be water, but turned out to contain gasoline. While curiosity about fire is natural, fires set by children are dangerous and deadly.

The danger of fire is greater than ever because of the high number of petroleum-based building materials. Fires burn quicker and hotter and smoke is more toxic than in the past because of these materials. In the hands of juveniles, fire can be deadly. Whether the child or adolescent was playing, experimenting or purposely setting fires, firesetting is extremely costly.

The misuse of fire has many variables including age, motivation for firesetting behavior, type of fires set, ignition materials used to set the fire, and the child's understanding and limitations of fire. Firesetting behavior is usually "**a cry for help**" and may be a symptom of a problem manifested through stress and crisis in their lives. The stress or crisis experienced by juveniles may include abuse, bullying, a recent separation or divorce of parents, home foreclosure, moving to a new community, or the death of a pet or loved one.

Why Do Kids Set Fires?

Youth firesetting or the misuse of fire by children isn't necessarily arson. The best way to understand why children set fires is to look at their motivations for firesetting. For most young kids, the motive is experimentation and curiosity. Motives can involve curiosity, thrill-seeking, willful intent to cause destruction, or by children who suffer from mental or emotional problems.

There are four common factors that influence firesetting behavior among children and adolescents. These factors impact all types of firesetting and include:

1. **Easy access to ignition materials.** Easy access to ignition materials often proves deadly for children who start fires. In many homes where a child has been involved in starting a fire, the child easily discovered the ignition source or already knew where it was located and how to obtain it.
2. **Lack of adequate supervision.** The lack of adequate supervision is a factor that can influence all ages of firesetting among children and adolescents. Parents are often shocked to discover their child has engaged in firesetting over a prolonged period of time.
3. **A failure to practice fire safety.** A failure to practice fire safety is a factor that often affects children and their parents in the following ways:
 - Young children often lack understanding of the dangers associated with firesetting and safety rules about fire.
 - Older children and adolescents may not have received school-based fire safety education about the dangers of the inappropriate use of fire, penalties for such behavior, and direction on what to do if a fire occurs.
 - Parents / Caregivers may not be aware of the significance of youth firesetting, appropriate fire safety education, penalties, or what actions to take in the event a fire occur. They may not be aware of local youth firesetting prevention and intervention programs.
4. **Easy access to information on the Internet.** Information regarding firesetting, designing explosives, and how to do tricks with fire is a problem that demands attention. Technology has made explicit media available to youths on many dangerous and often illegal activities. They are able to experiment with fire or incendiary materials and instantaneously post results for the world to see and oftentimes replicate.

Parents, caregivers, and public educators, whether they are from the fire department or the school system, can build an informed foundation by teaching fire safety at an early age. Teach children of all ages that fires, even small ones, can spread quickly.

Myths and Facts Concerning Children and Fire

Myth: A child can control a small fire

Fact: Most fires start small, but can become uncontrollable quickly.

Myth: It is normal for children to play with fire.

Fact: It is not normal for children to play with fire. Curiosity about fire is normal. Use of fire without an adult's knowledge, approval, or supervision is dangerous.

Myth: Firesetting is a phase children will outgrow.

Fact: Firesetting is not a phase. If a child is not taught fire safety, the firesetting can get out of control easily. It is a dangerous behavior.

Myth: If you burn a child's hand, he/she will stop setting fires.

Fact: Purposely burning a child's hand is child abuse and is against the law. The reason behind the firesetting must be discovered and addressed.

Myth: If you take a child to the burn unit to see burn survivors, he/she will stop misusing fire.

Fact: Going to the burn unit only instills fear, and does not teach a child anything about fire safety. More importantly, we need to be sensitive toward burn survivors who are trying to recover emotionally and physically from their burns.

It is important to understand myths concerning children and fire. Children need to be educated about fire and have their motives understood so that proper interventions can be used to stop the firesetting behavior. Youth Fire Intervention programs should refrain from using "scared straight" tactics or show burn victim videos as their sole educational interventions.

Intake Process for Juveniles Involved in Firesetting

A successful youth firesetting intervention program must have an intake process that includes the following five basic procedures:

1. **Points of entry:** Juveniles can enter programs with a referral from the fire service suppression staff, investigators, public educators or on-duty station/administrative personnel.

The referral can also come from partner agencies that include juvenile justice, social services, mental health agencies, schools or other groups. All personnel from every agency must understand what to do if presented with a firesetting situation and how to initiate or deliver the intake components.

2. **Reasonable response time:** Once a youth has been identified, there is a significant but short window of opportunity to provide at-risk youth services. The best window of opportunity to provide successful intervention is immediately after the fire. Ideally within 48 hours of initial contact, the youth firesetting intervention program should make contact with the youth and his or her family. This may be done either in person or by telephone. Once a fire crisis has subsided, parents/caregivers may be reluctant to follow through with fire intervention for their child.

3. **Contact individual(s):** Intake personnel and their availability must be identified. Who in the program will be responsible for taking requests for service and/or contacting families? Will there be more than one person available to initiate the contact? There is a range of options; some programs have one contact person assigned per day, while others have one contact person available on a half-time basis or on-call basis.

4. **Intake forms:** Intake forms may be written or electronic and must be established for each case. A fire incident form should be attached to the intake form if it is available and the referral is through an actual fire response.

5. **Prioritization of cases:** Depending on the caseload, there must be a procedure for responding to urgent cases that require a more rapid intervention.

For more information about youth firesetting prevention and intervention, consider enrolling in one or both of the National Fire Academy's two-day classes "Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention - Level I / Level II).

The Michigan State Firemen's Association will be hosting the Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention - Level II course at their Fall Fire School in Alpena Michigan November 8 - 9, 2014. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.msfassoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/MSFA-Fall-School-Flyer.pdf>

Sky Lanterns

A sky lantern is a small hot air balloon made of rice paper with an opening at the bottom where a small fire is suspended. A candle or waxed fuel cell is used with the device. The heated air from the flame causes it to rise into the air and be carried off by the wind.

But the sky lantern is free to float to wherever the air currents take it, rising as high as 3,000 feet. Then it will lose altitude and land on the ground in trees and power lines or on structures.

If sky lantern lands when the flame is still burning, this may create a **fire hazard**. In typical designs, as long as the lantern stays upright the paper will not get hot enough to ignite. But if the balloon is tilted (say, by the wind or by hitting some object) it may catch fire while still in the air. All the paper will usually burn in a few seconds, but the flame source may remain lit until it hits the ground.



After the balloon lands, the leftover thin wire frame will rust away very slowly, remaining a hazard to animals that may swallow it, or come in direct contact with the lantern. The photo shows an owl caught in a sky lantern.

Sky lantern may have started business fire



To read the complete article, visit: <http://woodtv.com/2014/09/09/32nd-street-and-breton-road-fire/>

SCHOOL SAFETY

Balancing Fire, Tornado and Lock-Down Safety Drills in Schools

With the implementation of Public Act 12 of 2014 this past July, the Bureau of Fire Services is providing clarification regarding the requirements for maintaining measures of fire safety, tornado safety, and safety from unwanted intruders. The new Act requires K-12 schools to perform at least five (5) fire safety drills, two (2) tornado safety drills, and three (3) lock-down emergency drills.

During a fire, the corridor system acts as a vital component in getting students and staff safely and quickly out of the building. Doors that open into the corridor are required to be positive latching. Positive latching keeps the door closed if there is a fire in the room and protects the corridor from smoke. Placing magnets or other devices that circumvent the positive latching of the corridor doors is prohibited and violates the Michigan School Fire Safety Rules.



To remain proactive regarding tornado preparedness, school officials should work in conjunction with local emergency management coordinators to develop a tornado response plan that outlines the actions that should be taken after tornado sirens have been activated. The plan should include designated tornado shelter areas and a system for monitoring and evaluating tornado shelter drills. School officials must conduct tornado shelter drills in accordance with Michigan Law and all drills must include staff and student participation, an audible signal independent of the school fire alarm, and a plan of movement to shelter areas.

Many schools have already increased security using a layered defense plan to prevent unwanted intruders from gaining access to school facilities. Some of the key elements put into place include distributing emergency preparedness procedures, providing a secured vestibule at the main entrance, and eliminating exterior door handles on many non-entrance doors.

Lock-down drills are required for all K-12 schools and teach students and staff how to locate a safe area within the school in which to barricade in place until the incident is over. In order to maintain a safe classroom, schools have been locking their doors and exploring the use of devices to barricade the classroom door. Barricade devices are permissible and are put in place by a teacher or other school staff member during lock-down drills or actual emergencies. These devices are not affixed to the classroom door and do not violate normal door hardware or the Michigan Schools Fire Safety rules. Following a lock-down, the barricade device is removed and the door returns to normal use.



Maintaining partial lock-down conditions during normal school hours remains a concern for many districts. Keeping classroom doors locked at all times have proven inconvenient for teachers and students and has led to some schools overriding the positive latching requirement of the door by installing or using devices that keep the door from latching. As noted above, these devices are prohibited and violate the Michigan School Fire Safety Rules. Door locks, if provided, shall not require the use of a key, tool, special knowledge or more than one motion to open from the egress side.

For more information, please go to the Bureau of Fire Services website at www.michigan.gov/bfs.

Seasonal Fire Safety Reminders

Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11. *Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives; Test Yours Every Month!*

Many people simply do not test their smoke alarms as often as they should. Many home fire deaths result from fires where a smoke alarm is present but does not operate. This year's theme focuses on motivating people to test their smoke alarms each month to make sure they're working properly. According to NFPA statistics:

- Having a working smoke alarm in the home cuts the risk of dying in a fire in half.
- On average each year, three out of five home fire deaths result in fires where there are either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- In one-quarter (23 percent) of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.

Halloween

Keeping the kids safe while trick-or-treating is one of greatest concerns of Fire and EMS personnel. Each year, we see a significant increase in home fires and burn-related injuries often caused by candles igniting costumes and decorations. Never have the kids carry candles or put candles in jack o' lanterns. Use flashlights instead. Make sure costumes are labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant. Children should always go trick-or-treating with a responsible adult; and stay together as a group when walking from house to house. Wait to eat treats at home where candy can first be inspected by an adult or your local police department.

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries When Daylight Saving Time Ends November 2, 2014

As we set our clocks back one hour, now is the time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms double a family's chance of surviving a home fire. The risk of dying from a fire in a home without working smoke alarms is twice as high as in a home that has working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms should be on every level of the home, in every bedroom and in the basement. Now is a good time to have the entire family know and practice two ways out in a home fire escape plan. Make sure the kids recognize the sound of the smoke alarm and can respond instinctively to its signal and follow an escape plan.

Thanksgiving -- Turkey Fryers

This is the most popular day of the year for cooking fires. Many will be using a turkey fryer, some will try it for the first time – and they can be dangerous. Consider using an oil-less fryer for greater fire safety. The popular cooking method requires placing the turkey in three gallons or more of oil, heated by propane. Tests have shown that the fryers have a high risk of tipping over, overheating, or spilling hot oil, leading to fires, burns or other injuries. When the oil meets the fire the fryers instantly become a "vertical flame thrower" turning into a volcano of smoke and fire within seconds. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) continues to believe that turkey fryers that use oil, as currently designed, are not suitable for acceptably safe use by even well-informed and careful consumers.



December -- Think Fire Safety First this Holiday Season



Water holiday Christmas trees daily as a dry tree is extremely flammable and could rapidly become a towering inferno in your living room. Examine electrical lights and cords for possible defects, frayed cords or bad plugs. Never use lighted candles on the tree. Keep lit candles away from decorations, presents, furniture, draperies or anything that can burn. Keep candles up high away from children and pets. Never leave home or go to bed with lights on or candles lit.

Portable Generator Safety during Power Outages

With winter weather, comes the threat of ice storms and power outages. Homeowners must take extra safety precautions while using generators during power outages. Extra precautions are necessary to reduce risk of injury or death from carbon monoxide poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. Opening windows or running fans will NOT prevent carbon monoxide buildup. Anyone with symptoms of nausea, dizziness, headache, severe drowsiness or a flu-like feeling should get fresh air and seek help immediately at the local hospital ER for possible carbon monoxide poisoning.

Generators should never be operated indoors or in an unventilated area. Do not store gasoline for a generator indoors. Gasoline should be stored in an approved, non-glass safety container. Extinguish all flames or cigarettes when handling gasoline or the generator. Always have a fully charged, approved fire extinguisher located near the generator. Never refuel a generator while it is running. Shut it off and let it cool for 10 minutes before refueling to minimize the danger of fire. When not in use, store the generator in a dry location such as a garage or shed.



SUBMISSION OF FIRE ARTICLES

Thanks to all of you for the continued articles, information, photos and comments – your input is important. If you would like to submit articles for the Michigan Fire Service Connection on upcoming events, best practices, awards, you may submit them via e-mail no later than **Monday, December 15, 2014**, to both Julie Sworden at swordenj@michigan.gov and, Cathy Carson at Carsonc@michigan.gov. Please be advised that all articles will be prior approved by the State Fire Marshal. All articles published must be submitted in Microsoft Word format.



For additional information about the Bureau of Fire Services and to subscribe or unsubscribe to the Michigan Fire Service Connection go to: [BFS Newsletter Subscription](#)

